

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1 and 11-25, and add new claim 26, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
retrieving a mission module with a vessel; and
installing the mission module in the vessel, the installed module operable to functionally interact with the vessel.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein installing the mission module comprises moving the module into the vessel via a ramp.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein installing the mission module comprises:
lowering a ramp from the vessel;
moving the module into the vessel via the ramp; and
raising the ramp into a ramp storage area disposed beneath the module.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein installing the mission module comprises installing the module in a bay of the vessel.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises an aircraft.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises a land vehicle.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises a ship.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprise a space ship.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising maneuvering the vessel to the mission module before retrieving the module.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising maneuvering the mission module to the vessel before retrieving the module.
11. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
maneuvering a vessel toward a mission module such that a bay of the vessel captures the module; and

coupling a system interface of the mission module to a system interface of the vessel.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the bay is disposed in the bow of the vessel and the maneuvering comprises moving the vessel forward.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the vessel is a multi-hull, water-born ship.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the coupling comprises lifting the mission module into the bay of the vessel.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[13]] 14 wherein the lifting comprises lifting the mission module with a crane system.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the coupling comprises lowering the vessel to the mission module.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[15]] 16 wherein the lowering comprises reducing the freeboard of the vessel with a ballasting system.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 11 wherein the coupling comprises attaching the vessel to the mission module via a ship-to-module interface.

19. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
uncoupling a mission module from a bay of a vessel, the mission module operable to functionally interact with the vessel; and
removing the module from the bay.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 19, further comprising maneuvering the vessel away from the removed module.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 19, further comprising maneuvering the removed module away from the vessel.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 19 wherein the removing comprises sliding the mission module down a ramp.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 19 wherein the uncoupling comprises raising the vessel away from the mission module by increasing the freeboard of the vessel with a ballasting system.

24. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

removing a first mission module from a vessel; and
installing a second mission module in the vessel, the second mission module operable to functionally interact with the vessel.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[23]] 24 wherein installing the second mission module comprises retrieving the second mission module from water while the vessel is floating in the water.

26. (New) A vessel comprising a frame operable to retrieve a module, the module operable to functionally interact with the vessel, the module further operable to be installed in the vessel.